

-CONFIDENTIAL-

4 June 1981

MJN- 8117

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Jordan Bureau Monthly Report - May 1981

I. GENERAL

A. Due to the heightening tension in the area as a result of the Lebanese crisis, the DCM initially unofficially forbade all U.S. staff to visit Syria and put travel to the West Bank on a day-to-day basis, then later put trips to both areas on a day-to-day basis. [redacted] said privately that while Jordan is completely calm at this time, there are two potential threats: (1) mob violence, of which he sees little

25X

25X

[redacted]  
and (2) an attack on the Embassy or its outbuildings by armed terrorists, which he feels is more likely despite the local troops guarding the Embassy.

B. The mission is still without an Ambassador although Richard Noyes Viets, current Ambassador to Tanzania, is said to be the likely candidate.

C. The U.S. dollar is at its strongest in five years against the Jordanian dinar.

II. OPERATIONS

A. In response to the Lebanon missile crisis, Bureau expanded its coverage of the Syrian media, added coverage of the commercial Arabic-language station Monte Carlo Radio and lengthened its operating hours, including overnight watches 15-17 May at Headquarters' request.

B. The Voice of Palestine initiated a daily 1445 GMT, 15 minute English-language cast on 15 May. Bureau coverage in the first couple of weeks has been hampered by poor reception and the monitors' difficulty in understanding announcers' relatively good American English accents.

-CONFIDENTIAL-

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Bureau Chief [ ] arrived 4 May and assumed duties 6 May. Retiring Bureau Chief [ ] departed Amman 30 May.

25X  
25X

B. Assistant technician [ ] entered on duty 17 May.

25X

C. Bureau completed personnel processing of Arabic monitor trainee [ ] for Gulf Bureau. He departed for Bahrain 20 May.

25X

D. The recruiting target for Arabic monitors doubled to two with a request from Nicosia to locate a candidate for that Bureau. An advertisement is to be placed in the local press in early June.

[ ]

25X

Chief, Jordan Bureau